

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a polyethylene terephthalate for molding, comprising:

- (1) a condensation step of condensing bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate having an ion content of 10 ppm or less and an acid value of 30 mgKOH/g or less to produce an oligomer having an average polymerization degree of 4 to 10,
- (2) a melt-polymerization step of melt-polymerizing the oligomer to produce a prepolymer having an intrinsic viscosity of 0.50 to 0.65, and
- (3) a solid-state polymerization step of crystallizing pellets of the prepolymer and then solid-state polymerizing the prepolymer at a temperature of 190 to 230°C to produce a polyethylene terephthalate having an intrinsic viscosity of not lower than 0.65 and having a cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene terephthalate obtained by solid-state polymerization has a carboxyl end group concentration of 10 eq/ton or less and a ~~cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the optical density of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate is 0.000 to 0.010.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the purity of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate is not lower than 95 wt%.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate contains 0.5 to 5 mol% of isophthalic acid based on an acid component of bis(2-hydroxyethyl)terephthalate.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the condensation step, condensation is performed at a pressure of 7 to 70 kPa and a temperature of 220 to 270°C.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the condensation step, condensation is performed in the presence of a polymerization catalyst and a stabilizer.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the carboxyl end group concentration of the prepolymer is 10 eq/ton or less.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the melt-polymerization step, melt polymerization is carried out eventually at a pressure of 25 to 140 Pa and a temperature of 270 to 290°C.

10. (Original) A polyethylene terephthalate for molding, having:

- (a) an intrinsic viscosity of not lower than 0.65,
- (b) a carboxyl end group concentration of 10 eq/ton or less,
- (c) a cyclic trimer content of 2,000 ppm or less, and
- (d) a cyclic trimer content after molten and kept at 290°C for 30 seconds of 3,500 ppm or less.

11. (Original) The polyethylene terephthalate of claim 10, wherein the carboxyl end group concentration (b) is 6 eq/ton or less.

12. (Original) The polyethylene terephthalate of claim 10, wherein the cyclic trimer content (c) is 1,000 to 1,800 ppm, and the cyclic trimer content after molten and kept at 290°C for 30 seconds (d) is 2,500 to 3,500 ppm.